

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) sent a letter to U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano requesting a Fire Grant Workshop in Cortland to help area emergency first responders apply for grants through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program.

"Fire Grant Workshops have been an invaluable resource for fire departments throughout the 24th Congressional District, and one here in Cortland can help even more local first responders get funding to upgrade critical equipment and expand services," **said Arcuri who is a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus**

. "Firefighters and first responders, many of them volunteers, work tirelessly to protect our families and property. I will continue working in Washington to make sure local first-responders have the resources they need to protect our community."

The AFG program awards grants to firefighters, emergency response personnel and first responders throughout the nation to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of first responders and the citizens in their communities. AFG program grants provide resources for training, first responder health and safety programs, and response equipment and vehicles.

Since taking office, Arcuri has announced over \$4,604,719 in AFG program grants for fire departments in the 24th Congressional District. Since 2004, the AFG program has granted nearly \$2.75 billion in assistance to fire departments nationwide.

Local fire departments interested in applying for AFG program grants are encouraged to call Arcuri's office toll-free in NYS at 1-800-235-2525.

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